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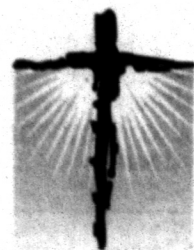
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No. 20



MISSISSIPPI
 BAPTISTS

SHARING IDEAS — Gene Neal (right) pastor of First Church, Quitman, talks with Ted Baehr Jr., publisher of the conservative Christian magazine Movieguide and author of more than a dozen books on Christians and the entertainment, at the 2008 Mississippi Baptist Witnessing through Media awards dinner May 2 at Park Place Church, Brandon. Neal is holding a certificate of recognition awarded to First Church, Quitman, for their work in the media field. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)



Record

THE BAPTIST

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Baehr: 'Entertainment can be redeemed'

By William H. Perkins Jr.
 Editor

Christians were respected members of the Hollywood set during the golden age of American movies — and can be again, according to Ted Baehr Jr., publisher of the conservative Christian magazine Movieguide and author of more than a dozen books on Christians and the entertainment media.

"Entertainment can be redeemed," Baehr told an audience of Mississippi Baptists gathered May 2 at Park Place Church, Brandon, for the annual Witnessing Through Media awards dinner. "We retreated from a mission field, and we should never retreat from a mission field."

Baehr, the son of 1930s cowboy movie star Robert "Tex" Allen and chairman of the Christian Film and Television Commission, said great movies are great stories well-told with a spiritually inspiring worldview. Those movies perform much better at the box office than violent and sexually explicit films, he observed.

Baehr stressed that the most powerful people in Hollywood are the 12-24 year olds who make up the vast majority of moviegoers. He quoted a Los Angeles Times study that found 74% of females and 58% of males in that age group are offended by cursing and sexual material in films.

"They are on our side," Baehr told the dinner attendees. "They want our guidance. They want people to help them."

Baehr said many parents are in denial about the influence of the entertainment media on young people. "In some places I go, they say, 'My child is too intelligent to be influenced by the media.' Actually, the more intelligent a child is, the more they are influenced by the media because their imaginations are better."

"So I say to them, 'If your child is not influenced by the media, he probably has the intelligence of a cucumber.'"



MEDIA WINNERS — Among the award winners at the Mississippi Baptist Witnessing Through Media annual conference May 2-3 at Park Place Church, Brandon were (from left) Jason Blackburn of Hillcrest Church, New Albany; Brad McMullan of Broadmoor Church, Madison; Damon Burgess of First Church, Jackson; Chris Williamson of Pinelake Church, Brandon; Pam Warren of First Church, Jackson; J.C. Howell of Colonial Heights Church, Ridgeland; Alan Stevens of Bel Aire Church, Gulfport; Ronnie Martin of First Church, Brandon; and Nolan Bishop of Nolan Bishop Ministries in Magee. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

The good news is that children can be taught to be media-wise with a great deal of parent involvement, he said. He recommended parents visit his web site, www.movieguide.com, for information and resources.

"We had a record number of entries in our awards competition this year," said Ian Richardson, communication services director for the Mississippi Baptist Convention

Board and coordinator of the Witnessing Through Media conference. "These entries, which included television, radio, and Websites, were extremely creative and speak to the commitment of our churches in spreading the Gospel through media."

"I believe that as we move farther into the 21st century, media will play a vital role in

See WTM, page six

AWARD WINNERS AT THE DINNER INCLUDED:

CHURCH MUSICALS

- Division One
Sing the Wonders
 Colonial Heights Church,
 Ridgeland
- Division Two
Best Gift: Time Interrupted
 Pinelake Church, Brandon

FEATURE PRESENTATION

- Division One
Christmas TV Special
 Bel Aire Church, Gulfport
- Division Two
Carols by Candlelight
 First Church, Jackson

COMMERCIAL

- Division One
Promotion Spot for Worship Service
 Main Street Church,
 Hattiesburg
- Division Two
I Quit! Sermon Series Introduction
 Pinelake Church,
 Brandon

PROMOTIONAL

- Division One
Noodling for Jesus
 Colonial Heights Church,
 Ridgeland
- Division Two
Living a Legacy
 First Church, Brandon

MUSIC VIDEO

- Division One
 Nolan Bishop
 Nolan Bishop Ministries
 Magee
- Division Two
Revival to Our Land (The Ballad of Johnny)
 First Church, Newton

WORSHIP SERVICE

- Division One
Living Life on Purpose
 Broadmoor Church,
 Madison
- Division Two
Pinelake Renewal Service: Night of Praise
 Pinelake Church, Brandon

RADIO PROGRAM

- Division One
Worthy of the Lamb
 Bel Aire Church, Gulfport

WEBSITE

- www.broadmoor.org
 Broadmoor Church,
 Madison

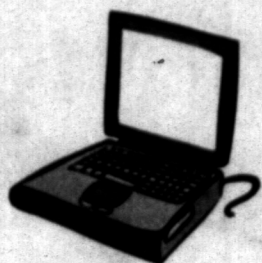
BEST 1ST TIME ENTRY

- Huntin' for Friends*
 Hillcrest Church, New
 Albany

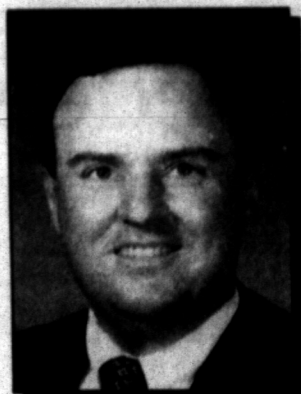
MOST CREATIVE USE OF MEDIA

- Faithful Giving: Gateway Rescue Mission*
 Pinelake Church, Brandon





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Legitimizing the illegitimate

The recent self-inflicted misfortunes of former New York Governor Eliot Spitzer, U.S. Senator David Vitter of Louisiana, and alleged D.C. madam Deborah Jeane Palfrey, among others, has once again brought the "world's oldest profession" into the harsh spotlight of public scrutiny.

To review, Spitzer was accused of availing himself of the services of a high-priced "escort service" — a prostitution ring, as it turned out and is often the case — in Washington, D.C. The accusation cost him his job, and there are still questions being asked about the shifting of funds used to make multiple payments to the service.

David Vitter admitted in July of this year that he had indeed made multiple telephone calls to an escort service in Washington, D.C., whose main service appears to be prostitution as well. He confessed after his telephone number appeared in the records of Palfrey, who was being investigated by authorities for running the escort service/prostitution ring connected to Vitter.

On May 1, Palfrey hung herself in a storage shed on her mother's property in Tarpon Springs, FL. Palfrey had already served a prison sentence in California in the early 1990s on charges of running a prostitution ring.

The ruination of these three lives — and the damage to the lives of those who loved them and believed in them — is virtually incalculable. Spitzer, the married father of three girls, was being touted as possible presidential material. Vitter, a Republican, is the married father of three girls and a boy. A Harvard graduate, his political trajectory was also seen as limitless.

Predictions for Palfrey's future may not have been as impressive, but her suicide is nonetheless a sad tragedy.

It would make common sense to conclude, therefore, that escort services are not the upstanding local businesses that they profess to be, and both the men who frequent them and the women who work there would be well-advised to find other ways to occupy themselves. (The diseases in play at these prostitution rings is a subject for another commentary.)

Not so, says Amanda Brooks, a former escort and "dancer" at a Dallas "gentleman's club." She is in the process of writing a series of books entitled, *The Internet Escort's Handbook*.

"Written by an escort for escorts," states the books' web site. "A frank discussion of a job rarely mentioned except in gossip or scandal. It's not terrible or 'bad' nor must it be demeaning to either party. Safe, sane, successful escort work is possible."

It's interesting that the author of that explanation chooses to place "bad" in

quotation marks, as if there is some question as to whether the word applies to the escort/prostitution business. One also wonders about the definition of a "successful" escort.

According to the web site, Book One includes information on the "basic mental, emotional, and physical considerations in escort work." Book Two deals with "successfully creating and selling your image online." Other books are in the pipeline.

The appearance of these escort instruction manuals is a telling commentary on modern American culture. We have become so tolerant of sin on every level that these books gather no outrage — or even mild criticism. We see the escort/prostitution business as simply another way to make a living and not a bad way at that, if a whole series of books can be written about it.

The physical, emotion, spiritual, personal and long-term societal costs to all who indulge in such behavior is rarely considered. Like gambling and drugs (including alcohol), both legal and illegal, we have adopted a hands-off attitude. It's an individual's choice, right?

Perhaps we could ask that question of the wives and children of Spitzer and Vitter, or the mother of Deborah Jeane Palfrey. Perhaps they'd have a different take on the "escort" business and the consequences of our casual attitude toward sin.

The changes our nation has seen over the past 100 years are mind boggling. Transportation, communication, and education barely resemble what existed at the turn of the previous century.

Fortunately, there have been some constants since 1908 that represent a continuity of core beliefs for Southern Baptists. One of those is the value of teaching boys about missions.

As Southern Baptists celebrate the 100th anniversary of Royal Ambassadors (RAs), it's not hard to see all the changes that have taken place through the years. If only some of the first two million-plus boys to become RAs could see it today, they would probably be surprised to learn that it now includes first-through third-graders and that the quality of the materials exceeds their imagination.

However, an RA in 1908 would likely recognize one dimension of the ministry that still remains today: the RA pledge. Though it has changed some, the essence has remained the same:

As a Royal Ambassador I will do my best to become a well-informed, responsible follower of Christ...

Missions discipleship doesn't happen by accident. It takes intentionality to learn the biblical basis of missions and to understand how Southern Baptists do missions cooperatively. Missions learning is the foundation for missions sending. People generally don't respond to opportunities they

GUEST OPINION:



Keeping the pledge

By Jim Burton
N. American Mission Bd.
Alpharetta, Ga.

don't know about. Through the study of missions, memorization of Scripture, evangelism training, and mission projects, the RA ministry equips boys for a missional lifestyle.

...to have a Christ-like concern for all people...

Missions is about other people — all people everywhere. RAs learn that missions means crossing cultures so that everyone can hear the Good News of Jesus Christ. An RA knows that today the crossing of cultures often starts in their neighborhood or school.

...to learn how to carry the message of Christ around the world...

Missions learning isn't just about how others do missions. It's about how even a young boy can carry the message of Christ to the four established Acts 1:8 zones (www.actson8.com) through his tithes, prayers, encouragement, and personal participation that begins at home

and can spread to the ends of the earth.

...to work with others in sharing Christ...

RAs learn that missions is rarely a singular effort. Even as Jesus sent the disciples out by twos, RAs learn that mission teamwork strengthens the missionary effort. They learn why it's important to work with missionaries, church planters, pastors, and believers in other countries to accomplish the Great Commission.

...and to keep myself clean and healthy in mind and body.

RAs are God's vessel for Kingdom work. They learn that purity and personal health discipline position a boy for meeting missional challenges.

The return on investment that churches make in boys through RAs is more difficult to calculate than 100

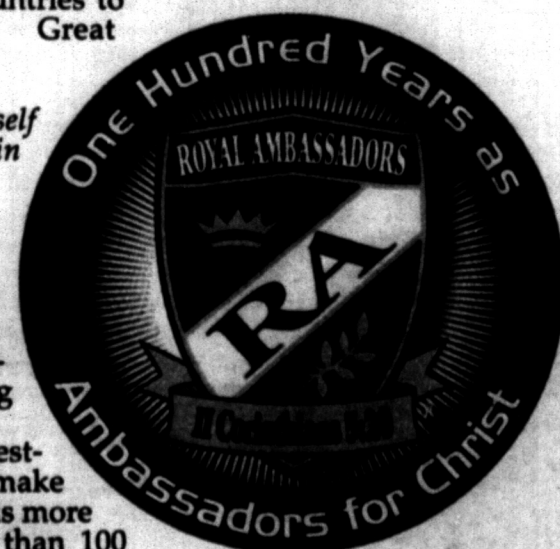
years of enrollment. However, historically Southern Baptist pulpits and missionary appointments have been filled by men who trace their first understanding of God's missional call to RAs.

Often when speaking in churches, I'll recite the RA pledge and watch men and boys of all ages across the auditorium mouth the words with me. They might not remember it verbatim, but the essence is still there because the RA pledge is a powerful life pledge.

Just as RAs make a pledge for missions, RAs need churches that will pledge to nurture their boys for missions.

It's a pledge to invest in the future.

Burton is the North American Mission Board's mission education team leader. For more information about Royal Ambassadors, visit www.royalambassadors.org. Burton's commentary appears courtesy of Baptist Press.



Latest GTA video game most violent yet

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP and local reports) — If the name Grand Theft Auto IV doesn't give away the violent and explicit content of the latest teenage video game craze, then the multiple warnings on the packaging do.

"GTA IV," as it is called, carries a Mature rating for blood, intense violence, partial nudity, strong language, strong sexual content, and the use of drugs and alcohol.

Available for the Xbox 360 and PlayStation 3 game consoles, the Grand Theft Auto franchise has become perhaps the most popular series of games for young teenage boys, despite the fact stores are not supposed to sell it to anyone under 17.

The latest release, in fact, could become the top-selling video game of all time. It went on sale April 29 and already is the top-selling video game on Amazon.com.

The game revolves around Niko Bellic, an immigrant from Eastern Europe who lives in "Liberty City" — essentially a faux name for New York City. The video gamer, playing the

role of Niko, steals cars, kills cops and gang members, runs over pedestrians on the sidewalk, gets drunk, visits strip clubs, and has sex with prostitutes.

In one common scene from the video game, Niko shotguns a woman in the back at close range, and as the woman struggles

to her feet he blasts her in the back a second time. "Stop whining and stay down," Niko tells her matter-of-factly.

The game has multiple critics, including Mothers Against Drunk Driving, which is upset that characters can get drunk and then drive.



The Parents Television Council (PTC) is criticizing Toys R Us, generally viewed as a place for children, for selling it. PTC also is calling on stores to check IDs and not allow children to purchase it. A 2007 survey by the National Institute on Media and the Family found that half the time, teens under 17 were able to purchase video games with a

Mature rating.

"Legally, stores cannot sell children pornographic magazines or handguns, but they can legally sell video games to children that contain pornographic content or that teach children how to kill," PTC's Tim Winter said in a statement. "This is wrong, and retailers should ensure that unaccompanied minors are prevented from purchasing Grand Theft Auto IV: Liberty City."

At least one survey showed Grand Theft Auto to be the most popular game among boys ages 12-14. One of the game's writers, Lazlow Jones, said on a Washington, D.C., radio station that the game is "too intense" for children.

"If you let your child play this game, you're a bad parent," he said, according to The Washington Post.

R. Albert Mohler Jr., president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, said on his blog that the game "is a signal of where the culture is headed."

"There is a moral minefield at every turn and no sector of the entertainment industry is safe, and certainly not the world of video games," he said.

Grand Theft Auto IV essentially is an R-rated movie in video game form — a fact not lost on gamers.

"I really think this is the first game that makes you feel that you are in a movie," one reviewer on Amazon.com wrote. "The graphics draw you in. The voices are amazingly well done and varied. The plot draws you in, having you wonder who to trust, having you wonder what is going on with the characters."

One website for parents, WhatTheyPlay.com, said of the game's aforementioned six content descriptors, strong language "is probably the most prevalent," as the citizens of Liberty City "are prone to express themselves loudly when anything upsets them." The "f-word" is common.

Of course, as the game's title suggests, Grand Theft Auto IV has plenty of violence, and it's graphic. When Niko attacks someone, the parental website said, blood "will spray in different ways." During close-quarters fighting, the blood will spray "in such a way that it looks like it's splattering against the TV screen."

"The cinematic scenes in the game feature some of the most graphic depictions of blood, with executions presented much as you would see in a TV show such as The Sopranos," the WhatTheyPlay.com review said.

Chris Baker of Slate.com put it another way.

"The violence is no longer cartoonish," he wrote. "Shoot an innocent bystander, and you see his face contort in agony. He'll clutch at the wound and begin to stagger away, desperately seeking safety."

Mohler said players "are filling their minds" with explicit images and "feeling the competitive exhilaration of engaging in immoral acts."

"This is dangerous stuff for the soul," he wrote. "...Parents have to make hard calls on entertainment options and they have to make their decisions stick. Christian young adults are negotiating a world of seemingly infinite choices — and every choice is laden with moral significance."

"The release of Grand Theft Auto IV presents parents with a great teaching opportunity and young adults with a moral choice."

Bill introduced

WASHINGTON (BP) — Congressmen from both major national political parties have partnered to sponsor legislation designed to prevent children from purchasing or renting adult video games. Reps. Jim Matheson, D-Utah, and Lee Terry, R-Neb., announced May 7 the introduction of the Video Game Ratings Enforcement Act, H.R. 5990. The bill would require retailers to check the identification of customers seeking to buy or rent games rated M for "mature" or AO for "adult only." Games rated M have content that may be suitable only for those at least 17 years old, while AO games include material that is appropriate only for those 18 or older, according to an industry ratings board. The measure does not bar parents from renting or purchasing M- or AO-rated games for their children, but it mandates stores display explanations of the rating system to help parents in purchasing or renting video games. Retail violators could receive a civil penalty of as much as \$5,000. The congressional action came at the close of a record-setting sales week for a controversial new game, Grand Theft Auto IV. The game, which was released April 29, broke all-time sales records for a first week and first day. Worldwide sales for the first week were six million copies at a retail value of more than \$500 million, according to FOX Business. The game's opening day was 3.6 million copies sold for a value of about \$310 million, FOX reported. Grand Theft Auto IV, which is rated M, has received heavy criticism from pro-family and other organizations. The graphic and realistic game enables the video gamer, playing the role of the main character, to kill policemen and gang members, have sex with prostitutes, visit strip clubs, steal cars, get drunk and run over pedestrians. The Grand Theft Auto franchise may be the most popular video game series for young teenage boys. "If you let your child play this game, you're a bad parent," said one of the game's writers, Lazlow Jones, according to The Washington Post. "Games like Grand Theft Auto IV appeal to the lowest common denominator..." said Parents Television Council President Tim Winter in commending Matheson and Terry. "Video game ratings supposedly exist to protect children from material that is created for adults, but there is no consequence for irresponsible retailers who repeatedly sell these games to children." Matheson said in a written release he knows he, as a parent, is "the first line of defense against my kids playing Mature-rated video games. But parents can't be everywhere monitoring everything and some reasonable, common sense rules ought to be in place to back parents up." A Federal Trade Commission study in 2005 showed 42% of unsupervised 13-16 year olds were able to buy M-rated games at stores, according to Matheson's office.

Looking back

10 years ago

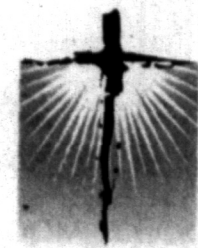
Edna M. Ellison, Women on Mission consultant for the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union (wMu) since 1995, resigns to accept a similar position at Southern Baptist wMu national headquarters in Birmingham.

20 years ago

Paul G. Jones II, executive director of the Christian Action Commission of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, is elected to a two-year term as president of the Mississippi Council on Family Relations during the group's annual meeting.

50 years ago

Roland Q. Leavell is given the rank of president emeritus of New Orleans Seminary effective May 1, according to Owen Cooper, Yazoo City, chairman of the board.



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

PUBLISHED SINCE 1877

MAY 15, 2008

VOL. 132

No. 20



YOU CAN RESPOND
RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx, 1932 - 2004
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V-XBO MOAXB VP XBO SGN-
BOY LVXB VP XBO KGYMVZ
RCM DCVKEOMQO VP
QVM! BVK WCYORSNBRLEO
RSO BGY FWMQZOCXY,
RCM BGY KRTY ARYX
PGCMGCQ VWXI
SVZRCY OEOUOC: XBGST-
XBSOO

Clue: W=U

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Romans Eight Nine

HURTS

All of us have hurts. We begin to experience hurts in our lives even before we are developed enough to remember having them. We stumble and fall, bruise something, break something, and burn something. We are pinched, poked, and sometimes pounded on and remember none of it. However, there is a lot that we do remember as we begin to experience hurts in life. There are hurts because we deliberately do wrong. There are hurts because others do wrong. There are hurts that are physical, others that are emotional, and still others that are social or spiritual. We get hurt and we give hurt. We live in a hurting world. Thankfully, God has intervened into our hurts to bring help. He sent Jesus to us. He not only understands our hurts He can do something about them. He is the Great Physician. He is the Wonderful Counselor. He is the Mighty God, and He knows how to help.

His entire ministry seemed to be laced with one experience after another of coming in contact with those folks who were hurting. There was a man who had never seen, a woman who for a dozen years had battled debilitating, life-threatening disease, a grieving mother who had lost her only son, a lady whose life had been marked by one sad marriage after another, and a man who was nailed to a cross hanging beside the Son of God. Every one of them was hurting and found help.



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

For just a few moments let me share with you an often overlooked if not unknown aspect of hurt. Rarely does a day go by that I do not make this statement to someone or at least to myself. Sometimes several times a day I am reminded of this simple phrase. I do not know where I heard it, read it, or how it got into the flow of my life but I can tell you that thousands of times I have been reminded of this simple phrase. It is only four words, but they are so instructive and insightful. Here they are — **hurt people hurt people.**

If you will take time to commit those four words to memory and meditation, it will help you to understand why people say what they say, do what they do, and even when you do not understand, it will help you to understand that something is going on beyond your understanding. **Hurt people hurt people** and oftentimes the hurt they are dish-ing out has little or nothing to do with the people they are hurting.

Someone has a problem at work and they come home angry, emotionally distraught, and lash out at their mate or children for what seems to be no reason.

Maybe a husband and wife have a spat and then come to church and unload their venom over some issue that seems to be small. I am often reminded of these four little words when I get a call or a letter from someone pouring out their anger about some issue that I knew nothing about and had absolutely no responsibility for what had happened. **Hurt people hurt people** and often they will go to great lengths to find someone to hurt.

I suppose the most dramatic picture of these four little words can be found at Calvary. Hurting people hurt Jesus. The people who put Jesus on the cross were sinful, angry, rebellious, and self-

righteous. Although it was self-inflicted hurt that is the way it is with us most of the time. We explode from our hurt to hurt others. We try to find the most appropriate, painful words we can get our hands on, or the most demeaning attitudes we can express, or the hottest anger we can show in order to hurt someone around us. It is never enjoyable to get hurt, but it is an amazing thing when you realize **hurt people hurt people.** When you get hurt, you begin to realize that the person who hurt you may be hurting worse than you are hurting. Oftentimes you feel a lot better and in turn, you may be able to help them with their hurts.

This is not the time, place, or space but a second phrase that has come to be a part of my thought process is **helped people help people.** May God help us to get there and get on with being one of His agents of help to touch other lives

The author can be contacted at jfutral@mbcb.org.

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Assisting Retired Ministers and Spouses

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

May 15, 2008

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.



Mississippi Family **FEST** on the Gulf Coast July 26-30, 2008

Location: Jackson County

Cost: \$25 per person (\$50 maximum for immediate family members), includes program fee, t-shirt, breakfast and lunch meals, plus dinner on Wednesday evening.

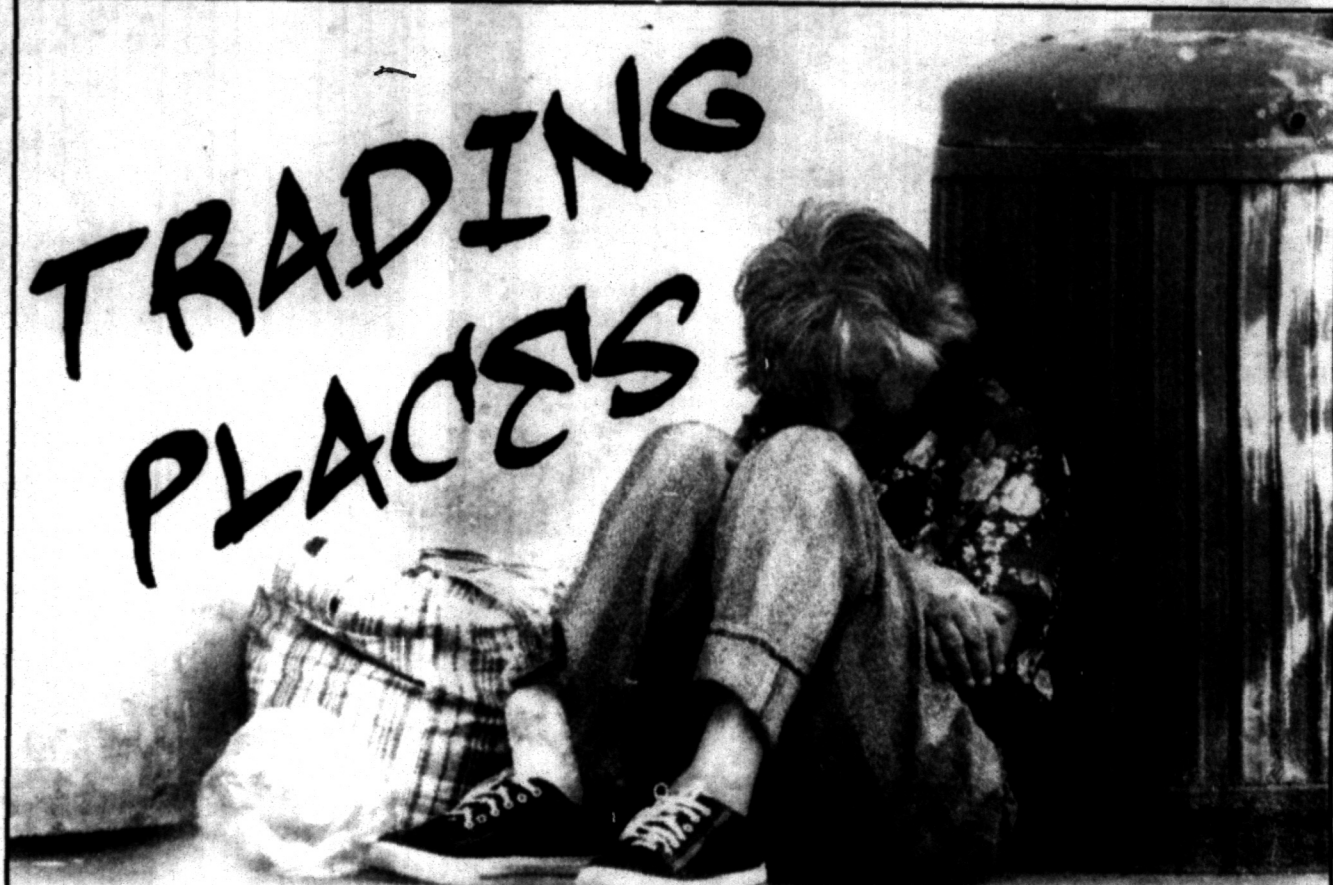
Types of Ministries: Light Construction/ Painting, Community Service & Outreach, Children's Ministries, Acts of Kindness

How to Register: Request a registration packet by calling MS wMu at 800-748-1651, ext. 317, or 601-292-3317, or E-mail lmiller@mbcb.org.

This event is co-sponsored by the Family Ministry Team, Men's Ministry, Mississippi wMu, Jackson Association, and participating local churches.

For more information, please contact Don Gann (dgann@mbcb.org) in Men's Ministry or Tammy Anderson (tanderson@mbcb.org) in Mississippi wMu at 800-748-1651.

TRADING PLACES



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Knowing that Mississippi is ranked #1 in POVERTY, and knowing that God has commanded us to "love our neighbor as ourselves," we can no longer think it is someone else's problem or that someone else should do something. Come, learn to be that someone that makes a difference.

For more information, contact Tammy Anderson at Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, wMu, PO Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205 or call 601-292-3323 in the Metro area, 1-800-748-1651 all others. You can write: tanderson@mbcb.org for written response.

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Dr. Edwin Jenkins is the pastor of First Baptist Church in Athens, Ala. He and his wife, Joan, have three children. Edwin earned a D.Min. at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

During the time that Dr. Jenkins served as the director of Leadership and Church Growth for the Alabama Baptist Convention State Board of Missions, he and his wife became aware of the significant need for ministers to have help in making their marriages better. In response to this need, they developed "The Miracle of Marriage" interactive materials.



Edwin & Joan Jenkins

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July 29
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8:45 a.m.	Welcome
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10:30 a.m.	Break
10:45 a.m.	Margins
noon	Dismiss

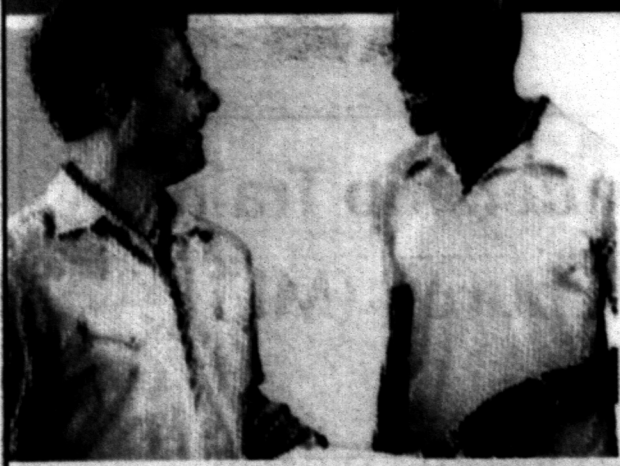
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PASTOR'S WORKSHOP

Monday, June 30
Auburn BC
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Tuesday, July 1
Easthaven BC
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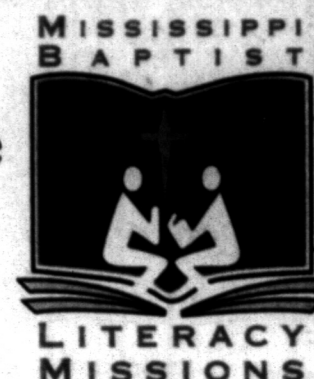
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Called to Love – Matthew 22:37-39

State Literacy Missions Conference

July 17-19
Crossgates BC, Brandon



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- **EFL (English as a Foreign Language)** - for individuals and/or groups wanting to reach English in a foreign country during a short term mission trip.
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- A Potpourri of My Most Popular ESL Techniques
- The Six Secrets that Solicit Speaking from Students
- God Speaks Through the ESL Lesson (A variety of ways to include the Bible in your lesson plan)
- Games for Teaching Reading and Writing
- Reproducible Resources for ARW and TCY
- Maintaining Your Spiritual Focus
- Immigration Overview

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Gayle Leininger, recently retired NAMB Literacy Missions Missionary
Kendale Moore, current NAMB Literacy Missions Missionary

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Pray this day for...

May 16 - June 5, 2008

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 601-292-3304 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-7729 (PRAY)

Prayer: O Holy Lord, reveal as much of Your glory and holiness as we are capable of receiving. Sanctify our minds, wills, and hearts through and through, for the glory of Your name. Let the beauty of Your holiness be upon us. In Jesus name. Amen.

Missionaries serving the five subgroups of the northern Sereer of Senegal, are praying for new ways to reach their people for Christ. Pray that churches will stand in the gap for the Northern Sereer through prayer and by coming to share the gospel message through chronological Bible storying and by discipling new believers.

Give thanks for the opportunity the Eastern Hungary Team has to lead a "Visual Bible Book of Matthew" DVD discussion group in a local group home for teens. Please pray that the Scripture passages discussed will impact the lives of the youth and of the adult caregivers who are involved.

Pray for peace among the three tribes living in close association at the Baba Dogo displacement camp in Nairobi, Kenya. Two of the tribes represent the two main tribal groups of Kenya who have been feuding in the post-election problems. Pray also for those who hear the gospel daily at the camp.

Pray that those attending family conferences in San Juan de los Loagos, Mexico, will understand the gospel, give up their devotion to the "Virgin of San Juan," and turn their lives over to Christ Jesus. This will mean facing rejection and ridicule from many. Pray for the tearing down of the strongholds of Satan in that city.

L and C. of the Vienna Team are starting a church plant with two other couples. M. is a young believer and has been against anything to do with the established church. Pray that he will be encouraged in his faith. His partner, P., is an unbeliever but is willing to attend with M. Pray that more house churches will result.

A year after saying yes to Jesus, A.Y. Fukuoka, Japan, has grown in her faith and continues to want to know more about Jesus. She shares: "Before I let Jesus into my heart, I was just thinking I should be a good person and try to do many things to have a successful life. Now I like what I am, because I know God loves me no matter how I am."

Less than one percent of the 28 million people living in Mexico City have a relationship with Jesus Christ. Every day 1,500 more people move to this overcrowded city. Pray for growth in the six house churches in the Obra Nueva (New Work) network in Northwest Mexico City, asking that each one will plant a new church in 2008.

A medical clinic provides a tangible way for workers to represent the hands of Jesus Christ. Recently a medical clinic was offered among Palestinian men. Pray for several men who opened their hearts and allowed workers to pray with them. These men willingly received copies of God's Word, the "Jesus" film, and Scripture bracelets.

In the Philippines many people do not have their own Bible. During National Bible week in January, Baptist representatives Dave and Hettie Daggett and others conducted a massive Bible distribution (more than 70,000 New Testaments in the Tagalog language) in the schools of several towns of the province of Batangas.

Pray for the completion of the John 3:16 tract in the Uruguayan Deaf Sign Language. At presstime, they ran into yet another delay. Satan does not want this tract in the hands of the Deaf. Intercede for all the obstacles to be removed and that this tract be used by the Lord to bring thousands to Himself.

Within a three week period in January, three seekers prayed to receive Christ in West Africa. Two seekers had called S (from a neighboring state) asking to meet with him and find out more. The third seeker met with an IMB missionary in a community where he lives. Pray for the follow up and discipleship of these new believers.

"I'm sorry you have to be here. My country is hell on earth!" Surprised by the comment, a young cross-cultural Christian woman stopped to talk to the South Asian woman who had made the statement. The young woman was quick to say that she liked it very much. A. has asked that people pray in Jesus's name for her and her family.

The Brazil Mobilization Team asks for prayer for the "Churches Multiplying Churches" program. Pray that the many Baptist pastors and lay people who demonstrated an interest in Brazil will spread the vision in the States for reaching Brazil and will adopt people groups, population segment or urban centers as "virtual missionaries."

Missionaries Alan and Beth Locke are church planting in the township of Lehae, South Africa. They work with Pastor H. and his wife. One recent Sunday, 10 adults attended church (with 16 in Sunday School) in Lehae. The church is meeting in an empty, yet-to-be assigned house. Pray for a permanent house in which to meet.

Pray for students of a small "jungle school" in SE Asia to be blessed with an improved classroom building, basic textbooks, other much needed resources, and with the opportunity to hear and respond to the gospel. Pray that they will ultimately be a channel of blessing as they provide an open door to share truth with their families.

Chris Clark, pastor, East Clairemont Church, San Diego, Calif., is helping to mobilize a statewide, organized effort in churches for the Protect Marriage Amendment to the California constitution. Praise God that the support is broader and more cooperative than any effort that has ever come before it.

(1) East Mississippi Sisters Who Really Care "Running the Race," Lauderdale Baptist Association, Marion (wMu); (2) State Single Adult Retreat, Central Hills Baptist Retreat (D&FM).

Please join missionaries Ann Pearce and Jo Yeates in praying for God's direction in the location of a new church plant. Ask the Father to make clear the individuals and families with whom He chooses for Ann and Jo to work, as well as where, how and when for the beginning of a new outreach group/potential church start.

"Please pray for the lost of Botswana, who have never even heard of forgiveness," asks missionary Ann Carruthers. "I went today to greet an old woman whose granddaughter, T, is in a serious health situation. Please pray for T, asking that she will look to God. She has been involved in witchcraft and is thought to have AIDS."

Pray for the work among the Bulgarian Muslims to continue to grow until each one has heard and understood the gospel. Pray that hearts will be softened and that their understanding of the message of our Lord will be clear. Ask the Lord to convict of sin among the Pomaks (Bulgarian Muslims) so that many will turn to Him.

After a renewing and encouraging time in the U.S., missionary Gerri Helton has returned to serve among the Lozi people of Zambia. Pray for Gerri as she transitions back into daily ministry. Pray for her Lozi friends whom she has not seen in several months to be ready to continue learning about Jesus Christ.

Called to Love ...

Amazing Grace

August 22-23
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HOUSE TOPS

COLLEGE NEWS

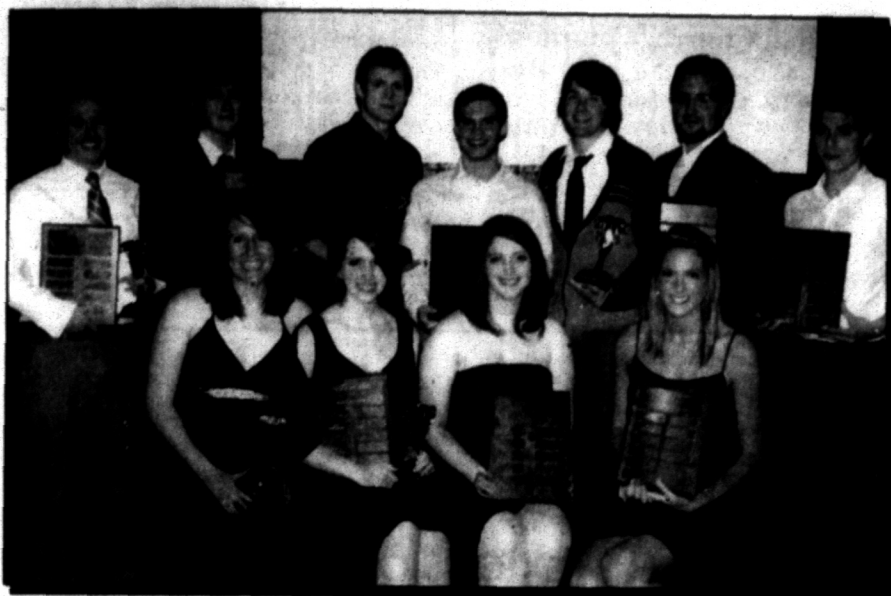
1. The Clarke College Alumni Association held its 100th Celebration in Newton Apr. 26. At a meal at a local restaurant, a bronze plaque recognizing the service of J.B. Costilow, BSU Director, 1955 - 1992 was presented. The Alumni House is now to be known as the J.B. and Virginia Costilow Alumni House. For more information on the alumni association, visit www.clarkecollege.com.

2. The William Carey University Department of Theater recently honored outstanding students at its 2008 awards dinner on the Hattiesburg campus. Shown are (front left to right) Mari Kenney of Long Beach; Chasity Murphy of Hattiesburg; Heather Campbell of Picayune; Amanda Williams of Picayune; (back left to right) Chase Anderson of Oak Grove; Wesley Guthrie of Lumberton; Lauren

Roberts of Lucedale; Andrew Breland of Gulfport; Bobby Bodenheimer of Carmen Park, Cal.; Paul Torquati of Carriere; and Caleb Kirkland of Carriere.

3. Lana Harris, a Blue Mountain College junior from Marietta, recently received the Halbrook Award from the Mississippi Association of Independent Colleges. The Halbrook Award is presented to one athlete from each of Mississippi's eight independent colleges, for their service, leadership, academic and athletic excellence. With Harris is Bettye R. Coward, president of Blue Mountain College.

4. At its 2008 convention in Honolulu, Hawaii, the American Counseling Association recently recognized Mississippi College Dean of the School of Education Don Locke with its Presidential Award. The 56-year-old educational organization is dedicated to the growth and enhancement of the counseling profession.



2. WCC Theater Awards

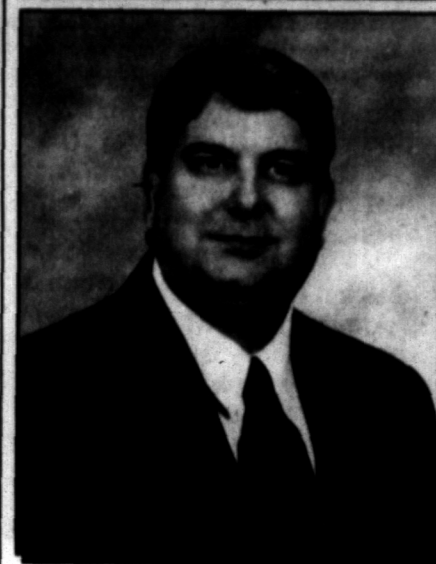


3. Harris and Coward



4. Locke

STATE CHANGES



1. McNeese

1. George W. McNeese has been called as pastor of Oak Grove Church, Prentiss. He recently served Lincoln Road Church, Hattiesburg. He is a graduate of Samford University and Southwestern Seminary.



BIBLE DRILL



1. Covenant Church, Greene Association

1. Covenant Church, Greene Association, recognizes its Bible drillers. Shown are Mason McLain, Tyler Green, Carey McLain, and Dalton Welford.

2. Magnolia Church, Laurel, recognizes its Bible drillers. Shown, from left, are Reid Temple, Taylor Pippin, and Bailey Sullivan.

3. First Church, Lexington, recognizes its state Bible drillers. Shown are Me'Lanae Garrett, Meredith King, and de'Alyse Richmond.

4. West Corinth Church, Alcorn Association, recognizes its Bible drillers Mady Hughes and Katy Aldridge. Linda Cooley, leader.



3. First Church, Lexington



2. Magnolia Church, Laurel



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4. West Corinth Church

1. **Summerland Church, Taylorsville:** Homecoming, May 25; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds and afternoon service, 1:30 p.m. Jeff James, speaker.
2. **Lucien Church, Lucien:** 99th Homecoming, May 18; business meeting, 10:30 a.m., followed by worship and dinner on the grounds; Chad Yarborough, speaker.
3. **New Hope Church, Harbortown:** Homecoming, June 1; services, 9:45 a.m. and 11 a.m.; food and fellowship following; singing featuring 2nd Chance, 1 p.m.
4. **Providence Church, Carrollton:** Revival, June 1 - 4, 7:30 p.m.; Kenny Carver, speaker; Benny Rigby and Joanna Miller, music.
5. **Roundaway Church, Doddsville:** Homecoming, May 25; worship, 10:30 a.m., followed by noon meal and an afternoon of visiting; Lee Kirk, speaker; Jana Donahoe, music.
6. **Antioch Church, Monticello:** Homecoming, May 25; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 10:45 a.m., followed by noon meal and afternoon singing; Chip Price, speaker; Gloryland, music; Dwayne Dunaway, pastor.
7. **Moss Hill Church, New Albany:** Homecoming, May 18; worship, 10:30 a.m., followed by lunch at noon and singing, 1 p.m.; Stacy McCollum, speaker; Servants Quartet, music; Charlie Ransier, pastor.
8. **Friendship Church, Brookhaven:** Homecoming, May 25; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by lunch and afternoon service. Jimmy Houston, speaker; Chad Yarborough, pastor.
9. **West Shady Grove Church, Wayne County:** Homecoming, June 1; services, 11 a.m., followed by lunch; Dwight L. Smith, speaker.
10. **Wayside Church, Scobey:** Homecoming, May 18; services, 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch; Keith McGee, speaker; Fletcher Moorman, music.
11. **New Zion Church, Braxton:** Septaquintaquicentennial, May 24 - 25; Sat., 11 a.m., entertainment, games, and picnic; Sun., worship, 10 a.m.; dinner, noon; birthday cake and celebration, 1 p.m.; dedication of Veterans Memorial Monument, 2 p.m.
12. **Georgetown Church, Georgetown:** Revival, May 25 - 28; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Phillip Caples, speaker; Trent Nethery, pastor.
13. **Concord Church, McCall Creek:** Homecoming, May 25; services, 11 a.m., followed by dinner on the

ground, and 1:15 p.m.; Troy Bankston, speaker.

14. **Calvary Church, Carroll County:** Homecoming, May 25; services, 10:30 a.m., followed by dinner and 1 p.m.; Bernard Nail, speaker; Jimmy Hood, music; Bud Vance, pastor.
15. **Blackwater Church, Kemper County:** Revival, May 18 - 21; Sun., 11 a.m. followed by dinner on the ground; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Mike Everett, speaker; Jimmy Sanders, pastor.
16. **Bethel Church, Columbus:** Revival, May 25 - 28; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; James McCullough, speaker; John Mark Jolly, music; Walter Butler, pastor.

WANTED: PINEVIEW BAPTIST CHURCH, Clinton, MS is seeking individual for part-time interim minister of music or part-time minister of music for blended Worship service. Please send resume to Pineview Baptist Church, 1288 Clinton-Raymond Road, Clinton, MS 39056 or email to Pineviewbc@bellsouth.net. Or fax your resume to 601-924-8378.

FULL-TIME MINISTER OF MUSIC. Parkview Baptist Church, Greenville, Miss., is seeking a full-time minister of music. Please send resume to personnel committee, 712 McAllister St., Greenville, MS 38701, or email to parkviewp@bellsouth.net.

SEEKING PART-TIME MINISTER OF MUSIC: Gillsburg Baptist Church, Gillsburg, Miss., searching for a minister of music. Mail resumes for this position or the interim position to Chris Teasley at 6126 MS Hwy 568, Osyka, MS, 39657 or call 601 542-1230.

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BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

Unlocking Your Best Relationship: Going Deeper in Friendships

1 Samuel 18:1-4; 19:4-7; 20:10-13, 16-17

By Rick Henson

God called David to be the next king of Israel. Saul, Israel's first king, had been disobedient and God told Samuel He rejected Saul, and that another would take his place (1 Samuel 15:26-28). Soon after God sent Samuel to Bethlehem to anoint David to replace Saul, Goliath and the Philistine army taunted the Hebrews. David was there taking food to his older brothers and heard the challenge of Goliath. David offered to fight the giant. Almost out of desperation, Saul allowed David to face the giant.

David won a great victory over Goliath and was brought into the household of Saul. Saul did not know that David had been chosen to replace him until later, yet Saul brought David into his own home. David married one of Saul's daughters, Michal.

Jonathan, Saul's son, and David became much closer than brothers-in-law. They became friends.

Saul eventually hated David from envy and sought to kill him. For years David lived in fear for his life. David even feigned insanity so that he could hide among the Philistines (1 Samuel 21:12-15). During this time, Saul sought to kill David, but Jonathan remained a friend to David. Several times Jonathan risked his own life to warn David that Saul was seeking to kill him.

Jonathan and David were true friends. The Bible says that God knit their hearts together (1 Samuel 18:1). As a symbol of their friendship, Jonathan gave David his robe. This robe was a royal robe worn by a member of the King's family. As a demonstration of his friendship, Jonathan



Henson

helped David escape the wrath of Saul.

Though the lives of these two would take different paths, they remained friends. Jonathan was loyal to David. He knew that his father Saul was wrong to seek David's life. So Jonathan remained a faithful friend to David, even at risk to himself.

Eventually Saul and three of his sons, including Jonathan, died during a battle with the Philistines. David finally became the king of Israel, but he did not forget Jonathan's kindness.

2 Samuel 9:1 reads, "David asked, 'Is there anyone remaining from Saul's family I can show kindness to because of Jonathan?'" They found Jonathan's only surviving son, Mephibosheth, who was crippled. David brought Mephibosheth into his palace and restored his family's fortunes. David simply wanted to bless Mephibosheth because Jonathan had been faithful to him. David chose to be faithful to the son of Jonathan.

From this story in First and Second Samuel we learn some

truths to help us in building lasting relationships. First, friends support each other even in difficult times. A fair-weather friend deserts at the first sign of a problem. A true friend remains loyal through a test or trial.

In 1989 I had to preach a very difficult funeral. Four people in the town in which I lived were murdered and I alone had to preach a funeral with four caskets across the front of my church. This event was in the news, and people from all over the state called to tell me they were praying for me, which I needed and appreciated. My best friend Clyde, however, went even further. He came to the church and sat in the choir loft behind me, praying for me and supporting me while I preached that difficult funeral message. I was encouraged to know my friend was literally behind me while I spoke. Clyde rode to the gravesite with my wife and me and prayed for me again at the graveside as I spoke. As you can imagine, we are close friends to this day.

Second, friends keep their promises to each other. Jonathan pledged to warn

David about Saul's intentions, and he did. David kept his word by showing kindness to Mephibosheth. Ideally, a husband and wife are each other's best friends. A marriage will succeed only if both honor their marriage vows and keep their promises to each other. A follower of Christ keeps his or her word, whether in a marriage or a friendship.

Finally, friends treat each other well. Jonathan saved David's life, so David promised Jonathan that when he was king, he would remember Jonathan's family. David sought to do an act of kindness for the offspring of his former enemy, all because of Jonathan's friendship. Romans 12:10 reads "Show family affection to one another with brotherly love. Outdo one another in showing honor." True friends seek to outdo each other in acts of kindness.

David and Jonathan were friends and acted like it. How do you treat your friends? Don't be surprised if they treat you the same way.

Henson is pastor of Oakdale Church, Brandon

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Make Major Life Adjustments

Genesis 46:1-7, 28-30; 47:7-12

By Marion Duncan

"... My son Joseph is still alive. I will go and see him before I die." (Genesis 45:28)

Without a second thought, Israel (Jacob) set out with all that was his to see Joseph, and when he reached Beersheba, he offered sacrifices to the God of his father Isaac. (46:1) Jacob's fear was great knowing God's warning to Isaac "not to go down to Egypt." (26:2) Jacob wanted assurance he was obeying God, and not his desire to see his son. In a vision at night, God told him, "I am God, the God of your father." (46:3) He reaffirmed His covenant promise and that He would go to Egypt with him and bring him back again. Believers are called on to make major life adjustments as the LORD leads. He told Jacob that Joseph would live long enough to "close your

eyes with his own hand," (46:4) as dearest relatives used to do.

Jacob's direct descendants numbered sixty-six, but if Joseph, his two sons, and Jacob were added, his descendants were seventy. (46:26-27)

Jacob sent Judah ahead to ask Joseph directions to Goshen. Joseph hurried to Goshen in his chariot to meet his father. Being an important public official, he was required to appear in the manner appropriate to his office. As soon as Joseph appeared before him, he threw his arms around his father and wept for a long time. Israel said to Joseph, "Now I am ready to die, since I have seen for myself that you are still alive." (46:29b-30) The emotion was overwhelming as father and son were reunited after years of painful separation. In some measure, through the reunion of



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this earthly father and son, one can sense the joy of the Father and Son when the work of Redemption was completed.

Jacob's household heard from Joseph how he would make provisions for them to go into the land of Goshen, a fertile pasture along the Nile River near Canaan. In Goshen, Jacob and his sons and their families could remain separate from the Egyptians and their pagan worship and marriages. Since shepherds were "detestable to the Egyptians," (43:32) they would not initiate business or social relationships with the Israelites. Unlike the Egyptians, a settled, agricultural people, shepherds were nomadic, migratory people with no roots, but that shepherd character was essential to pilgrim character, which was essential for God's people, "pilgrims in a foreign land."

Joseph reported to Pharaoh that his father and brothers, "with their flocks and herds and

everything they own," had come to Goshen from the famine in Canaan. (47:1) Joseph chose five of his brothers (probably the oldest) to present before Pharaoh. Pharaoh questioned them about their occupations, and they answered that they were shepherds as their fathers had been and desired to live there only a while because the famine in Canaan was severe, and they had no pastures for their flocks. Pharaoh told Joseph to settle his father and brothers in the best part of the land, Goshen, and to put the most knowledge of them in charge of his own livestock. (47:2-6)

Joseph presented his father, Jacob, to Pharaoh, and Jacob blessed him. When Pharaoh asked how old he was, Jacob answered that "the years of his pilgrimage (were) a hundred and thirty and (had) been few (in retrospect, the years seemed few) and difficult, but nothing to compare with the pilgrimage of his fathers before him. Then Jacob blessed Pharaoh again and left his presence. So, Joseph located his family in the best part of the

land, the district of-Rameses, and provided all the food his father's household needed. (47:7-11)

The people of Canaan and Egypt used all their money to purchase grain from Joseph and, then, exchanged their livestock for food. When the year was over, the people had nothing left except their land. So Joseph bought all the land in Egypt for Pharaoh, and the people were reduced to servitude. Joseph gave them seed to plant and originated a plan for them to give Pharaoh one-fifth of their crop and keep four-fifths for food and seed. Pharaoh gave the priests an allotment of food and only their land of did not become his.

The Israelites settled in Goshen, acquired property, and increased greatly in number. Jacob lived there seventeen years and was one hundred and forty-seven. With his hand under Jacob's thigh, Joseph promised he would bury him in Canaan with his fathers. Israel (Jacob) worshipped leaning on his staff.

Duncan is WMU director at First Church, Starkville

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) type-written, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will

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Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be

clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach photos with tape or staples.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

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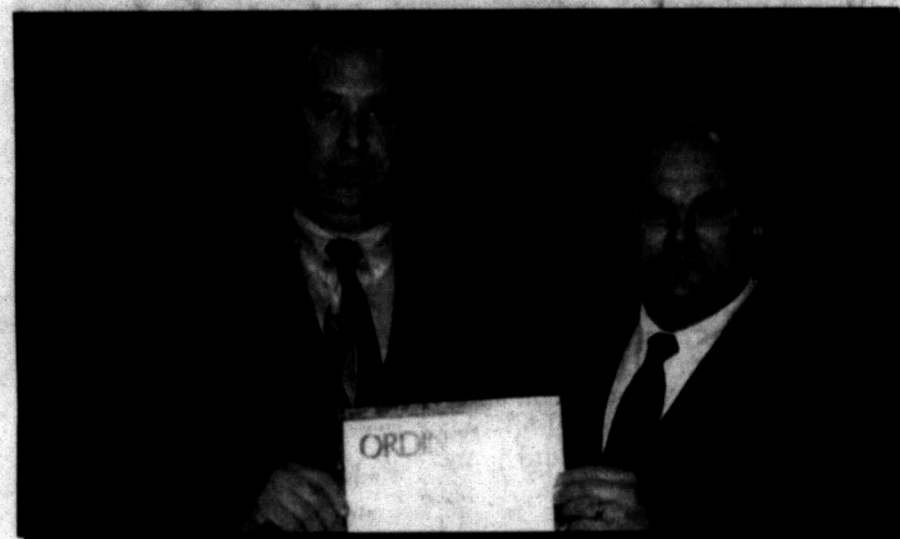
JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. Lakeshore Church, Jackson



2. Deacon ordination, Parkway Church, Kosciusko



3. Dipuma, Parkway Church, Morton



4. Deacon ordination, Poplar Creek Church, Kilmichael

1. The Lakeshore Church, Jackson, Ladies Prayer and Praise collected some 94 pounds of food, snacks, and other items for two of the church's servicemen serving in Iraq. Five boxes were sent to Iraq, with two more boxes being sent to the Wounded Warriors group at Walter Reed Hospital.
2. Parkway Church, Kosciusko, ordained Jerry Reynolds and Ken Ashmore as deacons Mar. 30. Shown are Reynolds, Ashmore, and pastor Don Cook.

3. Parkway Church, Morton, ordained Carlos Dipuma as deacon Mar. 9. Shown are Dipuma and pastor John T. Miles.

4. Poplar Creek Church, Kilmichael, ordained Michael McCoy and Warren Henning as deacons Mar. 16. Shown are McCoy, pastor Ben Hill, and Henning.

5. The Clarksdale Church, Clarksdale youth choir, Majority, recently completed a weekend choir tour, singing at Mantee Church, Trinity Church, Carthage, and Utica Church, Utica.

6. Liberty Church, Raleigh, held a baby dedication service recently. From left, Stanley Doggett; Rich and Kristi Ables with Trey; Phillip and Joseph and Darline McMullan with Joseph; and Dean and Kay Westbrook with Noah.

7. The Mission Kids of Faith Church, Tiptersville, recently raised \$75 to go toward the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering by doing chores around their homes. Shown, front are Jack Brady, Bonnie Devore, Malayah Burns, and Luke Devore; back, Kelli Kimery, Keith Kimery, Jr., and Abby Brady. Scott Brady, pastor.

8. Star Church, Star, licensed Tom Ross, Jr., to the gospel ministry Mar. 30. He is available for pulpit supply; contact the church at (601) 845-2736.

9. Marty J. Evans, III, recently surrendered to the ministry and preached his first sermon at Mt. Pisgah Church, Enid, Apr. 27. Marty J. Evans, Jr., pastor.

10. Liberty Church, Liberty: Vacation Bible School, June 9-13, 8:30 a.m. - noon; parent time, June 13, 11:30 a.m., followed by lunch.



5. Majority, Clarksdale Church, Clarksdale



6. Liberty Church, Raleigh



7. Faith Church Mission Kids

11. Oak Forest Church, Jackson, will honor their accompanists, Sarah Talley, Martha Hart, and Beth Sansing Jun. 1 for their years of service. Worship, 10:30 a.m., with the honorees in concert, followed by a pot luck luncheon.

12. Cedar View Church, Olive Branch, is hosting a fish fry (\$10 pp.) 4-6 p.m., followed by a community singing featuring music by The Goldenaires and others May 17.

13. First Church, Oloh, will host Gold City May 16, 7 p.m. Free admission.



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